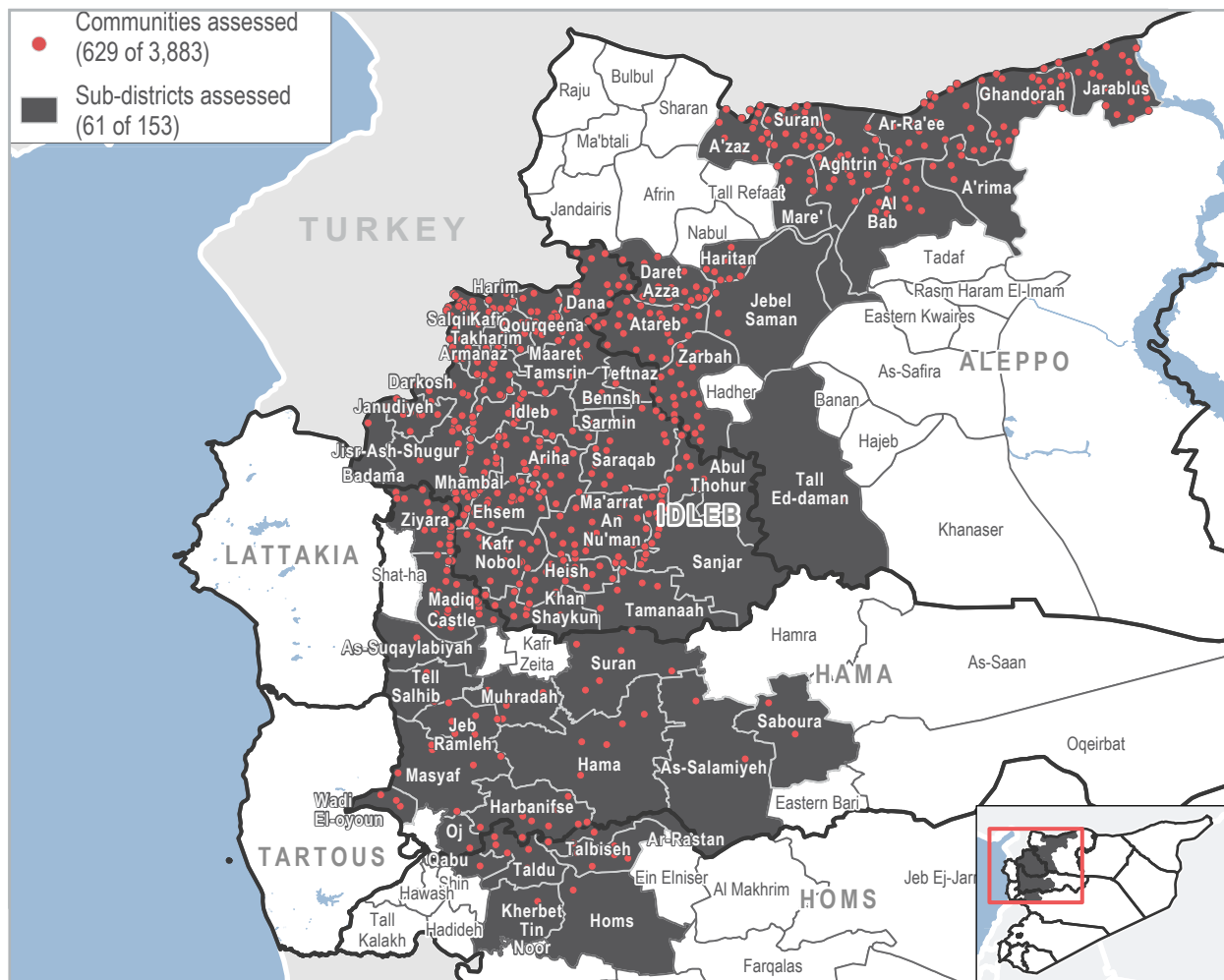


# Northwest Syria, August 2018

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

### Coverage



### Introduction

HSOS is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. The assessment is conducted at the community level covering displacement, shelter and non-food items (SNFI), health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security and livelihoods (FSL), and education.

The factsheet presents information gathered in 629 communities across Idlib (311 communities), western Aleppo (211 communities), Hama (91 communities), and Homs (16 communities) governorates. Data was collected during the month of September 2018, and refers to the situation in the Northwest region in August 2018. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

For community-level data, datasets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#), [the Humanitarian Data Exchange](#), and are also distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

### Top 3 reported priority needs in assessed communities:

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Food Security
- 3 Water Access

### People in need (PIN) demographics\*

5,696,896 total PIN

- ♂ 2,860,560
- ♀ 2,836,336

### Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)<sup>1,2:</sup>

Average price in August: 53,650 Syrian pound (SYP)  
 Average price in July: 53,354 SYP  
 Average price during last six months: 57,751 SYP

\* Figures based on [HNO 2018](#) population data for the entire NWS region including areas not covered by HSOS.

### Key events impacting the humanitarian situation in NWS

Operation "Olive Branch" commences in Afrin. <sup>a</sup>	212,724 individuals spontaneously return to 287 communities in rural Aleppo governorate and 354,682 individuals return to Aleppo city. <sup>b</sup>	Displacement remains high in Afrin with restricted movement and limited spontaneous returns since start of offensive. <sup>c,d</sup>	95,000 IDPs reportedly arrived in northwest Syria from Eastern Ghouta, northern rural Homs, and southwest Syria. <sup>e</sup>	Deterioration of civilian infrastructure contributes to prolonged destabilization of the humanitarian situation in NES. <sup>f</sup>	Approximately 1.9 million IDPs reported in Idlib, western Aleppo, northern Hama and Eastern Latakia. <sup>g</sup>
January 2018	February 2018	End of May	March - August 2018	August 2018	August 2018

# Northwest Syria, August 2018

## CONTEXT

In August 2018, Idleb governorate, the surrounding areas of western Aleppo and northwestern Hama remained one of the last opposition-held territories in Syria. Population numbers throughout northwest Syria (NWS) have fluctuated considerably since the conflict began in 2011. In 2018, as a result of escalations in conflict in Rural Damascus, and Northern Homs, NWS witnessed another increase in IDP arrivals. Furthermore, concern has spread throughout NWS over an imminent military offensive which could potentially displace up to 2.3 million people, further destabilising a region that has witnessed repeated instability for nearly 8 years. Please see the [ISMI Idleb and surrounding areas: Population Movement Intentions Overview](#) and the [Situation Overview: Idleb Governorate and Surrounding Areas](#) for further information.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS <sup>3</sup>

### Access to food in Homs

Key informants (KIs) in the 16 assessed communities in Homs governorate reported difficulties in accessing food, in 75% of assessed communities due to a lack of resources to buy available food and in 56% due to a reported decrease in local food production. In 69% of assessed communities, it was reported that food was received through distributions and 88% of assessed communities reported that food was somewhat sufficient in meeting household needs in August. This suggests that food distributions are supporting communities in accessing food, however, a decrease in local production and lack of resources to buy available food indicates that there is still a need for further provisions.

### SNFI needs in Hama

KIs reported that of the 91 communities assessed in Hama, 13%, mainly in Hama and Muhradah districts, reported between 51-100% of buildings were uninhabitable due to damage by conflict. Additionally, KIs in 38% of assessed communities reported that there was a lack of fuel and in 5 communities in As-Suqaylabiyah and Masyah districts, there was reportedly no electricity source at all.

### Healthcare access and services in western Aleppo and Idleb

Of the 522 assessed communities in western Aleppo and Idleb, it was reported that 46% communities faced difficulties in accessing needed healthcare services due to lack of operational facilities available in the area. In addition, 25% reported a lack of transportation and 22% reported a high cost of transportation as barriers to accessing healthcare. KIs also reported severe diseases affecting those aged less than 5 (68% of communities) and chronic disease with no access to medication (42% of communities) as primary health problems faced by all community members. Western Aleppo and Idleb governorate face a lack of access to healthcare facilities and high rates of disease and if access to healthcare is not improved, public health in these governorates will likely decline.



## Displacement

- High levels of displacement reported throughout NWS where of the 629 assessed communities, 13% reported that only 0-50% of preconflict population remained in August.
- KIs reported between 1,122,473 and 1,212,906 IDPs residing throughout the assessed communities in NWS with the highest concentration in Azaz (in Aleppo governorate), Idleb (in Idleb governorate), and Dana (in Idleb governorate) communities.



## Food Security & Livelihoods

- KIs across the 629 assessed communities in NWS reported an average income of less than 50,000 SYP per month, whereas KIs in the assessed communities in NES reported an average income range between 50,000 to 100,000 SYP.
- In Idleb and Homs governorates, KIs reported that of the 327 assessed communities, over 75% reported that food security was the most pressing priority need. The highest number of food distributions throughout the assessed communities in NWS were also reported in these two governorates.



## Education

- Of the 629 assessed communities in NWS, 93% reported having access to functioning primary schools in August. However, KIs in western Aleppo and Idleb reported that of the 522 assessed communities, 42% reported secondary schools were not accessible.
- In Hama governorate, KIs reported that of the 91 communities assessed, only 43% of children in the assessed communities had access to educational services, primarily due to a lack of teaching staff and school supplies. In addition, KIs reported that children were sent to work or beg in 34% assessed communities in Hama. <sup>h</sup>



## WASH

- Of the 629 assessed communities in NWS, 95% reported that water from their primary source was fine to drink. However, there were varying levels of access to water across the region, particularly in Homs and Idleb governorates, which reported high levels of insufficiency in the assessed communities, 56% in Homs and 49% in Idleb. The most commonly reported coping strategy to deal with insufficient water in these communities was to spend money usually spent on other items to buy water.
- In the 16 assessed communities in Homs governorate, KIs reported that residents faced problems with latrines due to not being able to empty septic tanks in 69% of the assessed communities and in 63% due to blocked sewage connections.



## Health

- In western Aleppo and Idleb, KIs reported a severe need for healthcare services in their communities, primarily antibiotics, clean bandages, contraception, and burn treatment.
- Medical KIs reported that of the 629 assessed communities in NWS, 4% reported that some individuals had been diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), in August. Cases of SAM were primarily reported in A'zaz (Aleppo governorate), Harim and Al Mar'ra (Idleb governorate), and Ar-Rastan (Homs governorate) districts throughout NWS.



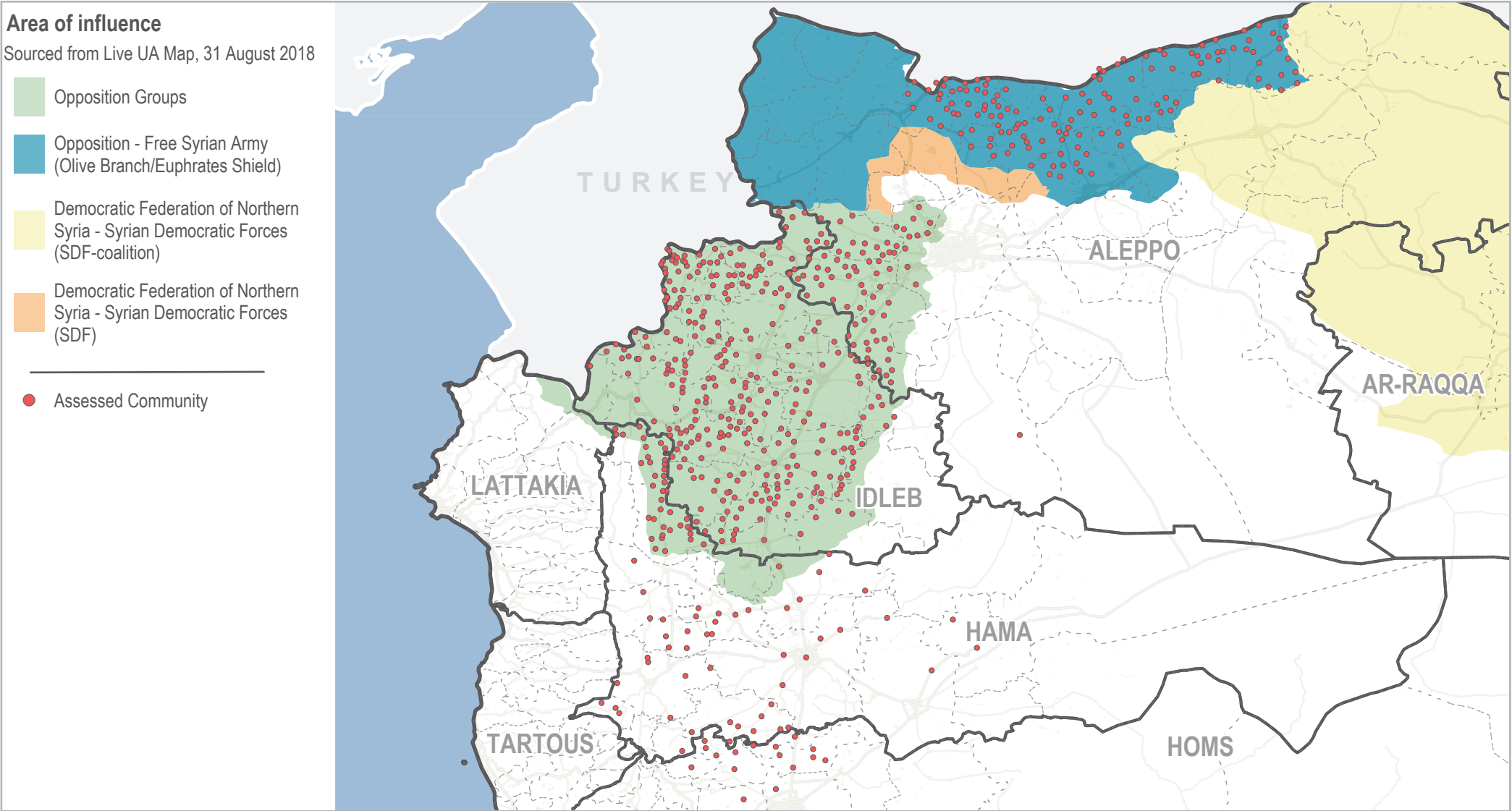
## Shelter and NFI

- In Homs governorate, KIs reported that of the 16 assessed communities in 88% there were no rooms available to rent. Furthermore, it was reported that the majority of IDPs in Homs were either hosted without rent or held formalised squatting agreements.
- In western Aleppo and Idleb, the majority of KIs reported that residents used generators as their primary source of electricity whereas in Homs and Hama, KIs reported that the majority of residents had access to the main network.

\*The western part of Aleppo where humanitarian response and coordination is conducted from the northwest rather than the northeast.

# Northwest Syria, August 2018

## Regional areas of influence:



# Northwest Syria, August 2018

## DISPLACEMENT

**8,100 - 10,173**

Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in August.

**4,357 - 5,218**

Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in August.<sup>4</sup>

### Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Maar Daftein (Hama)	<b>200 - 1,000</b>
Ariha (Idleb)	<b>650 - 700</b>
Dana (Idleb)	<b>450 - 500</b>

### Top 3 reported subdistricts of origin for IDP arrivals:<sup>5,6</sup>

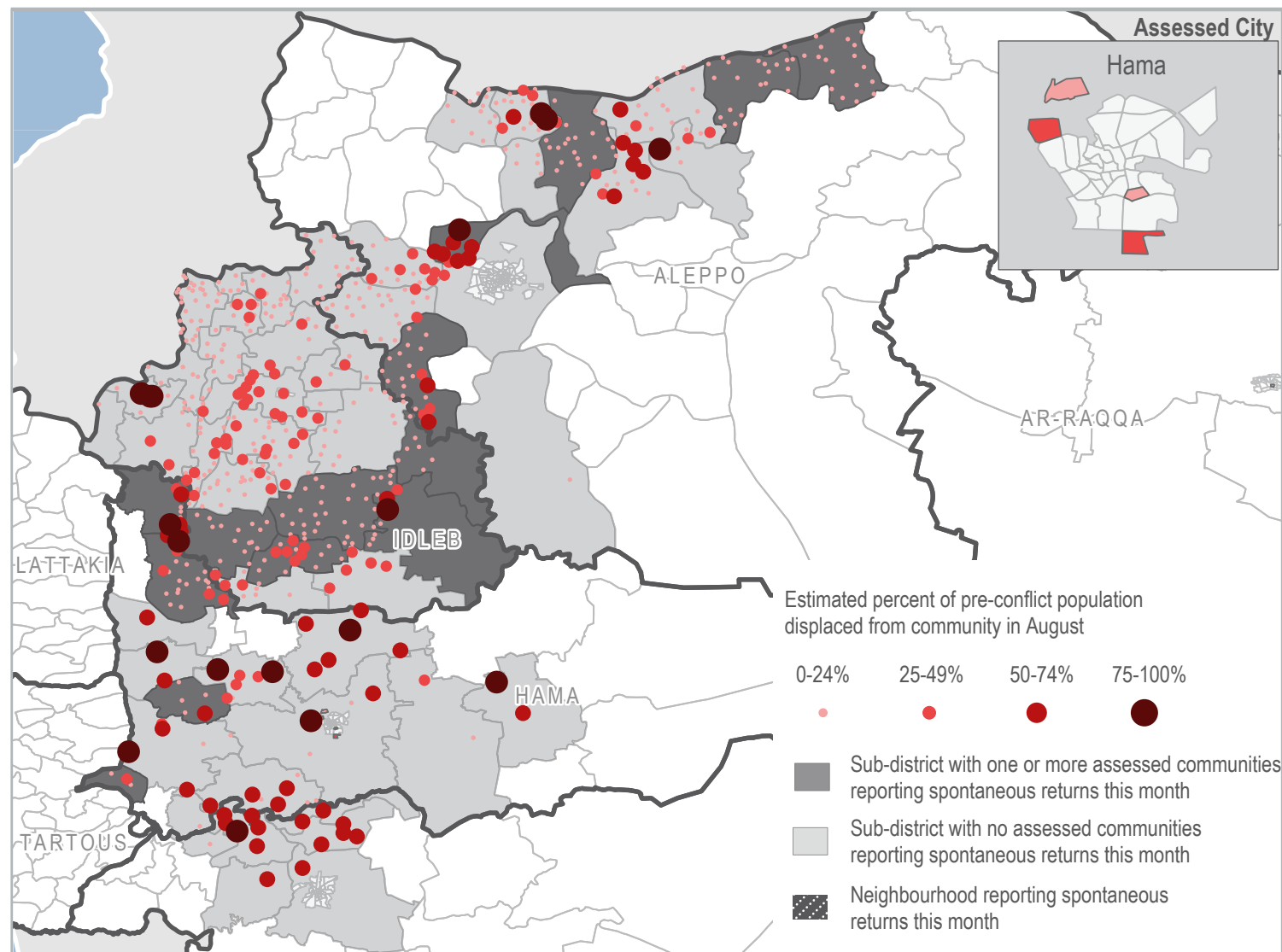
Tall Ed-daman (Aleppo governorate)
Tamanaah (Idleb governorate)
A'zazz (Aleppo governorate)

**553 communities reported no PCP departures.<sup>7</sup>**

**Top 3 reasons for PCP departures in the remaining 75 assessed communities:<sup>5,6,8</sup>**

Loss of income	51%
Escalation of conflict	46%
Reduced access to basic services	39%

Estimated proportion of pre-conflict population (PCP) displaced from community:



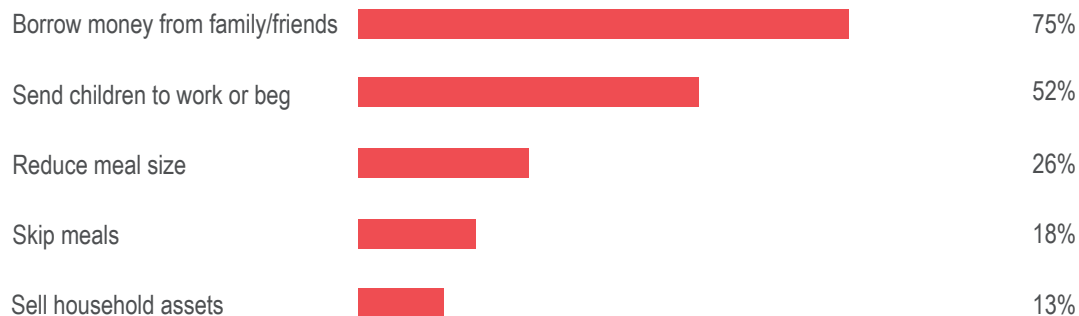
# Northwest Syria, August 2018



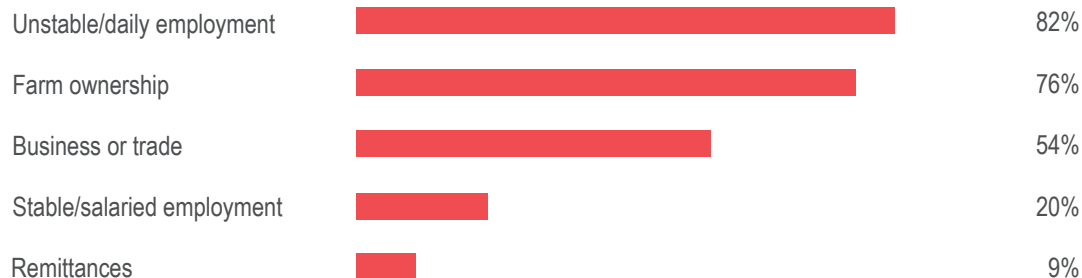
## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

- 204/629** Communities reported having received food distributions in the last month.
- 96/629** Communities reported that residents were unable to access shops and markets.
- 3/629** Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income.<sup>9</sup>
- Less than 50,000 SYP** Most commonly reported household income range.<sup>1</sup>

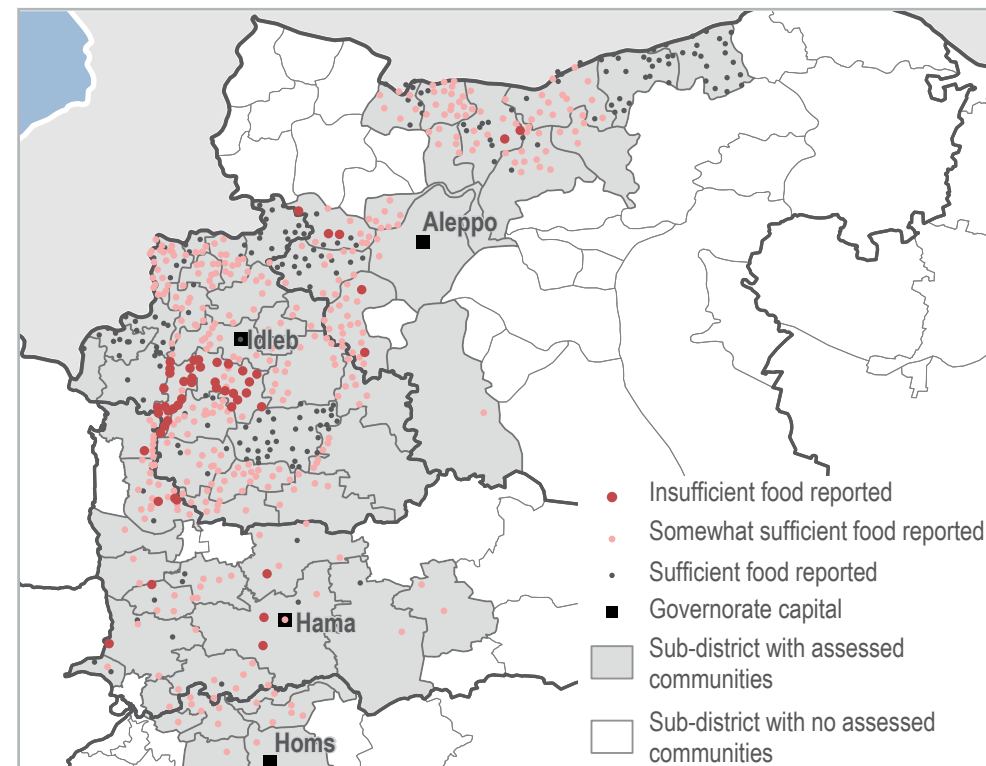
**143 communities** reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **466 assessed communities** were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



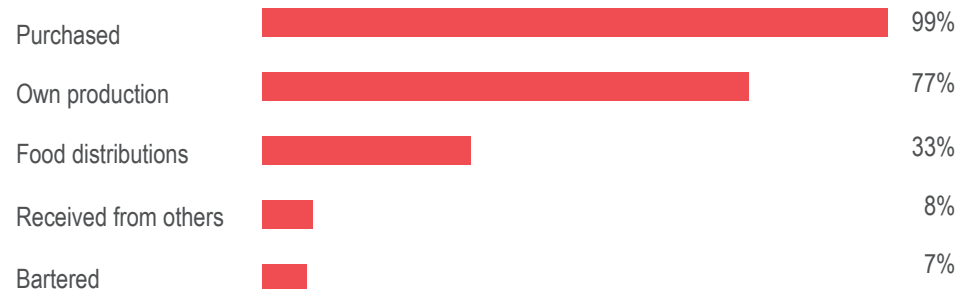
### Most commonly reported main sources of income:<sup>5,6</sup>



### Communities that reported having a sufficient quantity of food<sup>10</sup>



### Most commonly reported ways of obtaining food:<sup>5,6</sup>



# Northwest Syria, August 2018



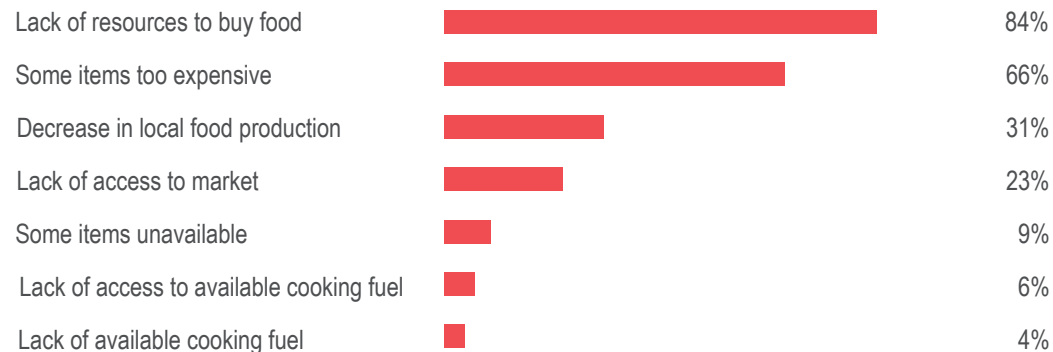
## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Core food item prices reported (in SYP):<sup>1,11</sup>

Food item:	Regional average price in August:	One month change:	Six month change:
Bread (8 pieces)	125	-9%	-17%
Rice (1 kilogram)	300	-17%	-23%
Lentils (1 kilogram)	225	-8%	-10%
Sugar (1 kilogram)	258	-14%	-18%
Cooking oil (1 litre)*	522	+1%	-9%

\*includes the combined vegetable oil and ghee prices

208 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 409 assessed communities were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



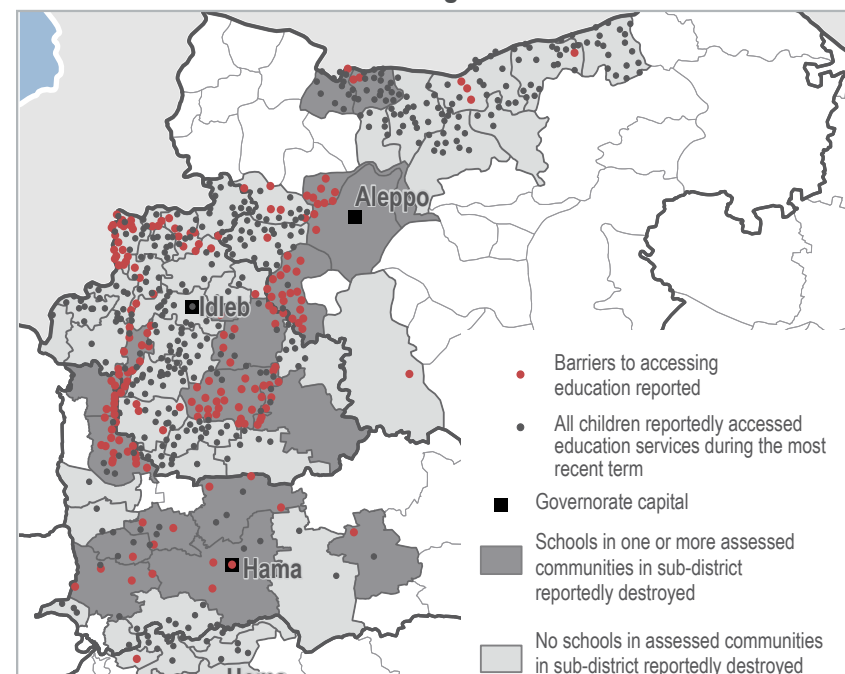
## EDUCATION Barriers to accessing education services:

585/629 communities reported having functioning primary education facilities, while 373 communities reported having functioning secondary education facilities.<sup>12</sup>

432 communities reported that all children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 183 assessed communities were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



### Prevalence of barriers to accessing education services:

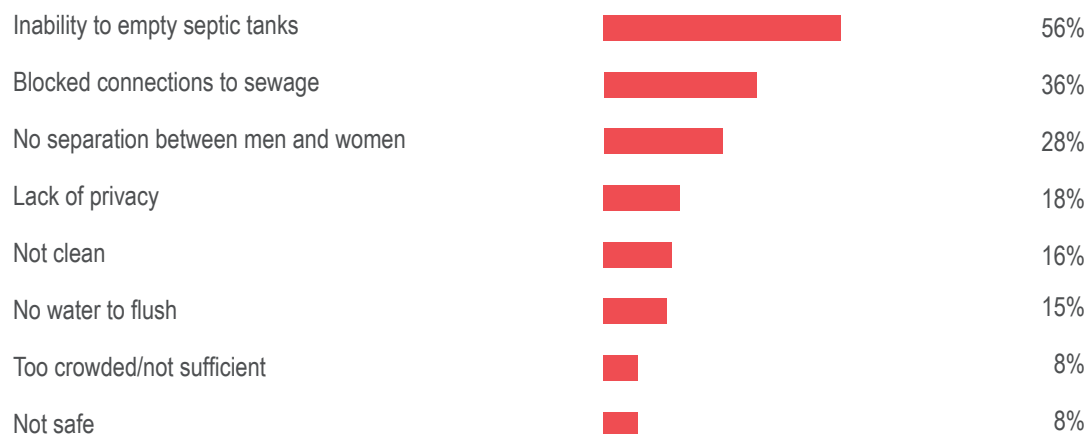


# Northwest Syria, August 2018



**13/629** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.  
**3/629** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

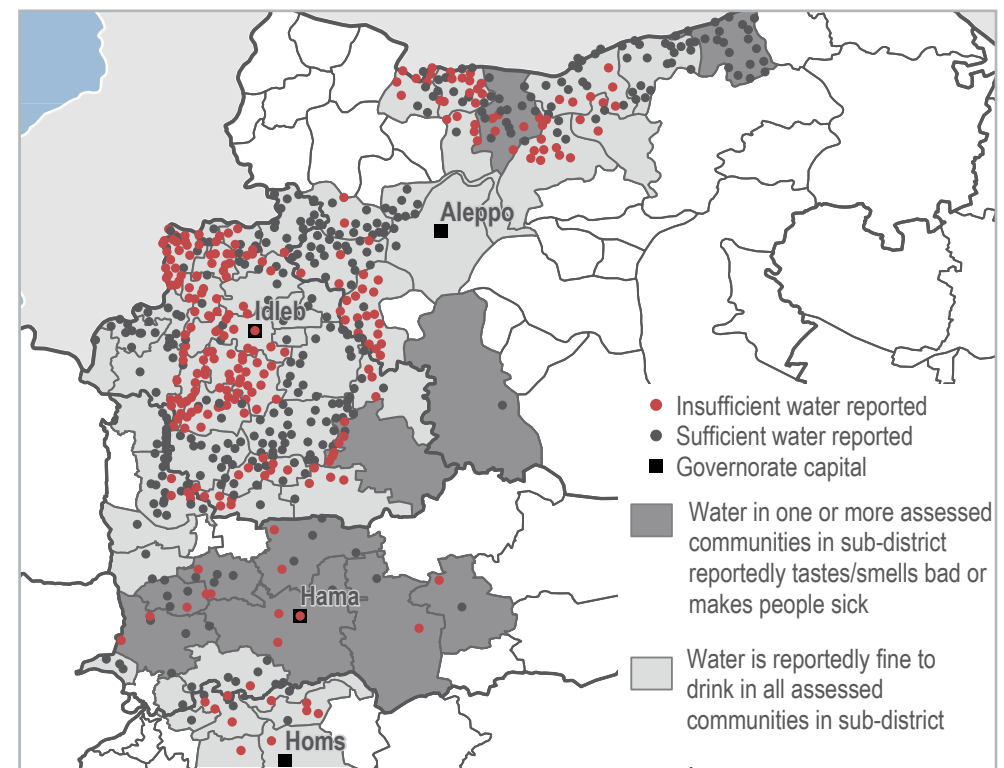
**335 communities** reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most commonly reported problems with latrines in the remaining **280 assessed communities** were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



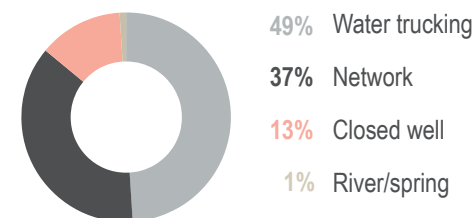
**356 communities** reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **257 assessed communities** were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



Communities that reported sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs:<sup>10</sup>



Primary drinking water source reported:<sup>6</sup>



Primary method of garbage disposal reported:<sup>5,6</sup>



# Northwest Syria, August 2018

## HEALTH

**146/629** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.<sup>13</sup>

**67/629** Communities reported that the majority of women did not give birth in a formal health facility.

**24/629** Communities reported that some individuals had been diagnosed with SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition).<sup>14</sup>

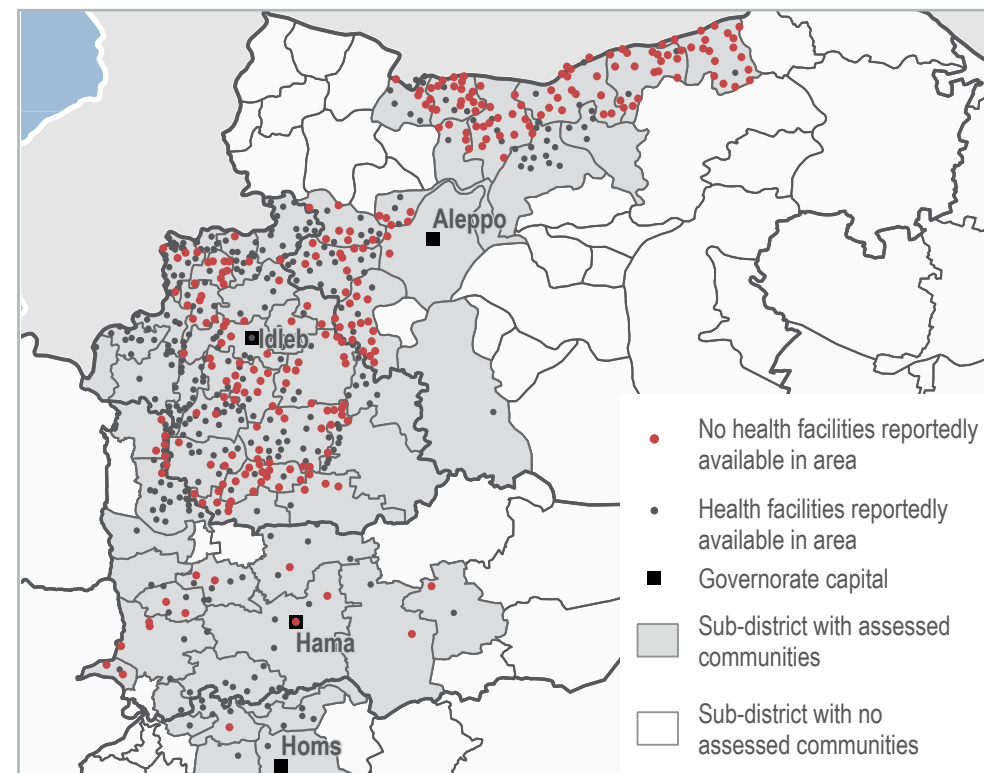
**182 communities** reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The most commonly reported barriers in the remaining **435 assessed communities** were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



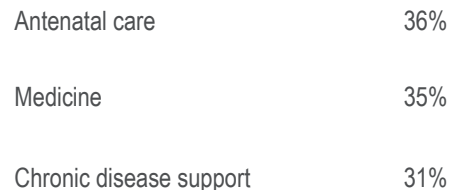
**591 communities** reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical services and items. The coping strategies used in the remaining **19 communities** were:<sup>5,6,8</sup>



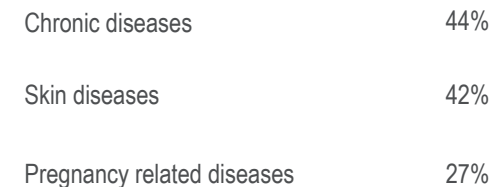
### Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



### Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported:<sup>5,6</sup>



### Top 3 most common health problems reported:<sup>5,6</sup>



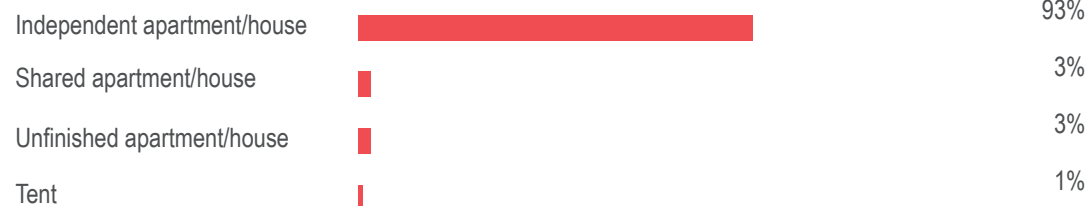
# Northwest Syria, August 2018

## SHELTER AND NFI

**6,289 SYP** Regional average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>1</sup>

**5,689 SYP** Northern Syria average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>1,15</sup>

### Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP households:<sup>6</sup>



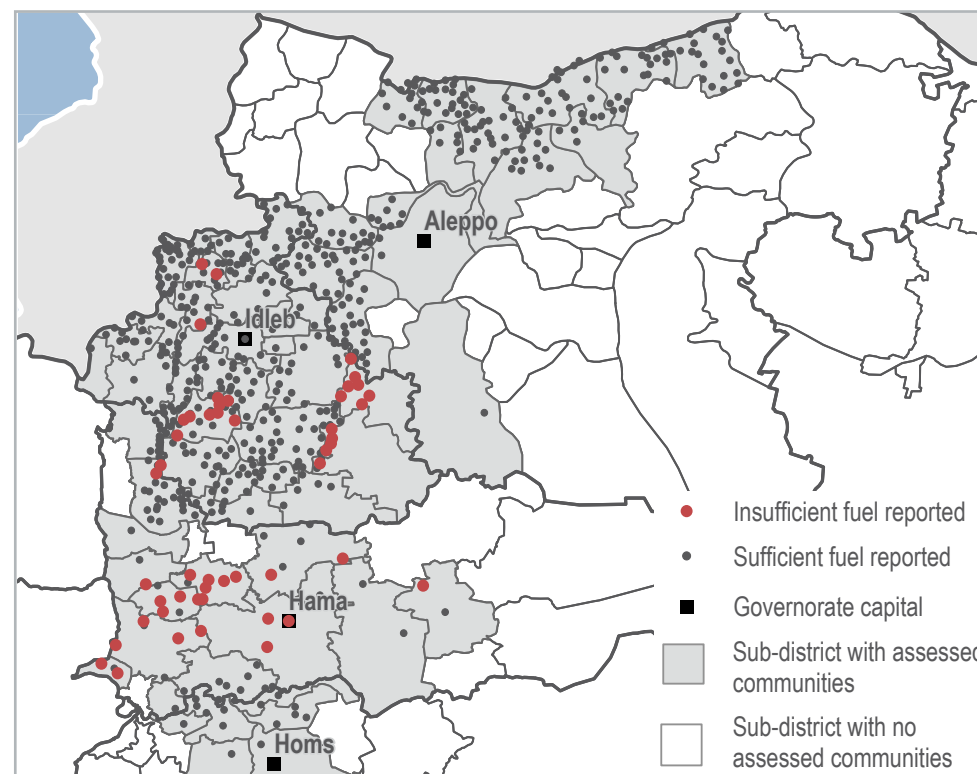
### Most commonly reported shelter type for IDP households:<sup>6</sup>



### Reported fuel prices (in SYP):<sup>1,2</sup>

Fuel type (1L):	Regional average price in August:	One month change:	Six month change:
GoS petrol	400	0%	-20%
GoS diesel	350	-2%	-19%
Manually refined petrol	250	0%	-29%
Manually refined diesel	195	-1%	-44%
Cooking fuel	250	0%	-38%

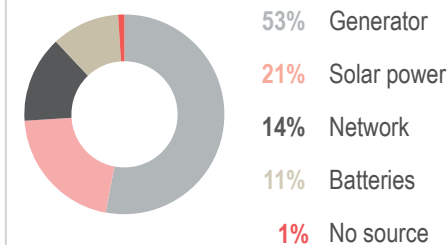
### Communities that reported sufficient amounts of fuel to meet household needs:<sup>10</sup>



**562** communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with lack of fuel in the remaining **54** assessed communities:<sup>5,6,8</sup>

Burning furniture not in use	56%
Burning plastic	46%
Cutting trees to burn	37%
Burning clothes	33%
Burning furniture in use	20%

### Primary source of electricity reported:<sup>6</sup>



## METHODOLOGY

HSOS data collection is conducted through an enumerator network in accessible locations throughout Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh governorates. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints renders direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews are conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact multiple KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs are asked to report at the community level.

KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagree on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulate the data with secondary sources or select the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels are assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the [final dataset](#). The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings are triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up is conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

## About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

## ENDNOTES

### MAIN TEXT

<sup>1</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 August 2018)

<sup>2</sup> 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. SMEB items: Bread, bulgur, chicken, eggs, fresh vegetables, ghee/vegetable oil, red lentils, rice, salt, sugar, tomato paste, bathing soap, laundry/dish soap, sanitary pads, toothpaste, cooking fuel, water trucking, smartphone data, float (other costs).

<sup>3</sup> All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the region.

<sup>4</sup> Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

<sup>5</sup> Assessed using select multiple questions

<sup>6</sup> By percentage of communities reporting

<sup>7</sup> Pre-Conflict Population (PCP), individuals who have not been displaced since the beginning of the conflict.

<sup>8</sup> Not all surveys have answers for every question, in these scenarios the KI or participant will input no answer. When the dataset has no answer for a particular question the reported number of assessed communities will not add up to total number of communities assessed and percentages will be calculated based on submitted responses.

<sup>9</sup> Extreme food-based strategies: eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

<sup>10</sup> Based on KI perception of sufficiency.

<sup>11</sup> Bread, rice, lentils, sugar, and cooking oil are considered core food items used in food baskets across Syria. For further information on all SMEB items please see the [Syria Market Monitoring report](#).

<sup>12</sup> Reported numbers indicate the number of communities with functioning primary and secondary education facilities during the data collection period. It is important to note that simply having a functioning facility is not indicative of students being able to attend said facility. In addition, in some cases KIs reported that children attend schools in a neighbouring community.

<sup>13</sup> Assessed HSOS medical items; anti-anxiety medication, contraception, clean bandages, blood transfusion bags, diabetes medicine, anaesthetics, blood pressure medicine, antibiotics, burn treatment.

<sup>14</sup> This information was derived from medical professionals (KIs)

<sup>15</sup> Includes HSOS data for Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates.

### KEY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

<sup>a</sup> Ibrahim and Edelman (26 February 2018). Turkish-backed offensive on Afrin leaves 50,000 students out of school. Retrieved from <https://syriadirect.org>.

<sup>b</sup> World Health Organisation (1 March 2018). Health Cluster Weekly Situation Report: Whole of Syria, Week 9 (23 February - 1 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>c</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (15.06.2018). Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian situation update in Afrin District and for IDPs in surrounding communities (as of 15 June 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

<sup>d</sup> World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean. (13-19 April 2018). Syria crisis Afrin update. Issue 4 (13 - 19 April 2018). Retrieved from <https://www.emro.who.int>.

<sup>e</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (12.09.2018). Syria: Recent Developments in North-west Syria (as of 12 Sep 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>f</sup> UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (28.08.2018). Briefing to the Security Council on the Humanitarian Situation in Syria by Mr. John Ging, Director of Operations and Advocacy. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>g</sup> UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (31.08.2018). Cross-Border Humanitarian Response Fact Sheet - Northwest Syria - August 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>h</sup> 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.